

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00948 311707Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 665
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: SIILASVUO REQUESTS HELP

SUMMARY: SIILASVUO IS BECOMING NERVOUS ON TWO POINTS (A)
SLOW PACE OF UNIFIL BUILDUP, AND (B) RISK OF UNIFIL CLASH
WITH PALESTINIANS AT TYRE. HE ASKED WE SUPPORT HIS REQUEST
TO SYG THAT FRENCH AND NORWEGIANS INCREASE THEIR CONTINGENTS
TO A TOTAL OF 1,000 MEN EACH. MOREOVER, THAT WE USE OUR INFLUENCE
WITH ASSAD TO PERSUADE PLO TO COOPERATE. FINALLY, THAT GOL
CONTINUE TO BE PRESSED TO SEND SOME GENDARMES SOUTH IMMEDIATELY
AS WELL AS A LIAISON OFFICER TO NAQUORA. END SUMMARY

1. I SAW SIILASVUO MID AFTERNOON MARCH 31. HE IS DEEPLY
TROUBLED BY WHAT HE SEES AS INCREASINGLY DICEY SITUATION IN
THE SOUTH. SIILASVUO BELIEVES PRESENT PACE OF UNIFIL BUILDUP
IS MUCH TOO SLOW, EVEN WITH IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF NORWEGIANS.
NEPALESE NOT EXPECTED UNTIL MID APRIL. HE HAS RECOMMENDED SYG
REQUEST FRANCE AND NORWAY TO BRING THEIR CONTINGENTS UP TO 1,000
MEN EACH AND HOPES WE WILL SUPPORT HIM. NEPALESE ARRIVAL,

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HOPEFULLY, CAN BE GREATLY EXPEDITED AND NEW PROSPECTIVE DONORS
(E.G. NIGERIA) SHOULD BE APPROACHED URGENTLY. (LEVINSON SAYS
GOI WILL ACCEPT NIGERIANS.) SIILASVUO IS NOT NOW REQUESTING
INCREASE IN ORIGINAL FORCE GOAL OF 4,000 EFFECTIVES, BUT BELIEVES
HE MUST HAVE THIS NUMBER QUICKLY BEFORE SIZEABLE ISRAELI
WITHDRAWALS CAN BEGIN, THEREBY RELIEVING PRESSURE FROM PALESTIN-
IAN SIDE.

2. SIILASVUO IS ALSO DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT TYRE SITUATION. PLO REFUSES TO PERMIT UNIFIL TO CONTROL KASMIYA BRIDGE. SITUATION IS TENSE AND IS KEPT UNDER CONTROL LARGELY THROUGH POLITICAL SAVVY OF FRENCH COMMANDER SALVAN, WHO IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LEADERS OF VARIOUS LOCAL PALESTINIAN GROUPS. SIILASVUO APPEALED FOR US TO WEIGH IN WITH ASSAD TO HAVE PLO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL IN TYRE.

3. SIILASVUO IS ALSO GETTING DESPERATE BECAUSE HE HAS NO REPRESENTATIVES OF GOL IN THE SOUTH WHATSOEVER. HOW, HE ASKED, CAN UNIFIL SCREEN RETURNEES, CONDUCT BODY-SEARCHES AND MAINTAIN ORDER WHEN THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT PRESENT? I DESCRIBED TO HIM THE VIGOROUS EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR PARKER AND USUN IN SUPPORT OF UN'S REQUESTS TO GOL. HE WANTS SOME GENDARMES IMMEDIATELY TO ASSIST UNIFIL AT BRIDGES.. SIILASVUO SAYS UNIFIL IS WILLING TO RUN RISK OF DOING THE JOB, BUT IT MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF GOL PRESENCE, HOWEVER MINIMAL, WITH WHICH TO COORDINATE ITS ACTIVITIES ON THE GROUND.

4. SIILASVUO'S FRUSTRATION WITH GOL ALMOST AS GREAT AS THAT OF BOUTROS. WITH INDIGNATION HE REPORTED KHOURY'S STATEMENT THAT LIAISON OFFICER HAD NOT BEEN SENT TO NAQOURA BECAUSE UN HAD NOT MADE FORMAL REQUEST IN WRITING. ERSKINE HAD NOW SENT FORMAL TELEGRAPHIC REQUEST THROUGH UN FACILITIES. ANYTHING FURTHER EMBASSY BEIRUT COULD DO TO EXPEDITE OFFICER'S ARRIVAL ON THE
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SPOT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

5. ON PLO PROBLEM, I GAVE SIILASVUO GENERAL RUNDOWN OF OUR ACTIVITIES WITH GOL, KHADDAM AND FRENCH. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT OR OTHER ADDRESSEES HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION I MAY PASS SIILASVUO PRIOR TO MY NEXT MEETING WITH HIM AT 0900 LOCAL APRIL 1. (DAMASCUS 1788 ARRIVED AFTER MY MEETING AND I WOULD NOT HAVE DRAWN ON IT IN ANY CASE WITHOUT DEPARTMENT'S AND AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S CONCURRENCE. MAY I DO SO TOMORROW?)

6. JONAH DEPARTED TEL AVIV FOR NEW YORK AFTERNOON MARCH 31 AND USUN MAY WISH TO GET HIS ASSESSMENT.
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